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Letter dated 26 November 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 24 November 1997, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-34563 (E) 021297

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Annex

Letter dated 24 November 1997 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the statement made by the Greek Cypriot representative at the meeting of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) held on 14 November 1997 under agenda item 88 ("Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects"). The statement contains allegations that grossly distort the realities of Cyprus and demonstrates yet again that the Greek Cypriot side is more interested in generating rhetoric than seeking a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus dispute.

The Greek Cypriot representative, in a vain attempt to absolve the Greek Cypriot side from the responsibility of creating and perpetuating the conflict on the island, once again refers to the legitimate Turkish intervention in Cyprus as an "invasion" and "occupation". I wish to remind the Greek Cypriot representative that the only occupation in Cyprus is the 34-year-old usurpation and continued occupation by the Greek Cypriot side of the seat of government of the bi-communal partnership Republic of Cyprus established under the 1960 Treaties. It was the Greek Cypriot armed onslaught in December 1963 against the Turkish Cypriot people and the bi-communal order that led to division on the island when the Turkish Cypriot people were forced to live in enclaves, deprived of all basic necessities and fundamental human rights, for 11 years prior to the legitimate Turkish intervention of 1974. What has been called the "Green Line" was established in 1963 so as to provide protection for defenceless Turkish Cypriots.

The Greek Cypriot side also conveniently forgets to recall that on 15 July 1974 Greece and its collaborators on the island staged a bloody coup d'état in Cyprus aimed at the final extermination of the Turkish Cypriots in order to achieve enosis (union of Cyprus with Greece). In the face of this imminent danger, Turkey had no alternative but to exercise its rights and obligations set out by the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee and intervened militarily on 20 July 1974, averting the colonization of the island by Greece. Turkey's military presence on the island serves as an effective deterrent against the Greek-Greek Cypriot ambition of Hellenizing Cyprus and the potential for renewed aggression against the Turkish Cypriots, as occurred during the period 1963-1974.

The Greek Cypriot representative attempts to rewrite history by claiming that the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) was established in 1964 after the Greek Cypriot wing of the once bi-communal Republic of Cyprus invoked the assistance of the United Nations in 1963 when faced with the threat of "intervention by a more powerful neighbour". Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, UNFICYP was established under Security Council resolution 186 (1964) of 4 March 1964 and dispatched to the island as a means of preventing the massacre of the Turkish Cypriot people by the Greek Cypriots.
Mr. George W. Ball, who was the United States Under-Secretary of State at the time and visited the island in February 1964, recalls in his memoirs how he

furiously told the then Greek Cypriot leader, Archbishop Makarios, that "the world is not going to stand idly by and let you turn this beautiful little island into your private abattoir" (The Past Has Another Pattern, p. 341). Furthermore, in stark contrast to the claims made by the Greek Cypriot representative, Mr. Ball recalls having reported the following to Washington at the time: "... The Greek Cypriots, I wrote, do not want a peacekeeping force; they just want to be left alone to kill Turkish Cypriots" (ibid., p. 345).

Evidently, the real lesson to be learned from the United Nations peacekeeping experience in Cyprus is that even when the Security Council mandates UNFICYP to "use its best efforts to prevent a recurrence of fighting and, as necessary, to contribute to the maintenance and restoration of law and order and a return to normal conditions", this cannot prove possible when one of the parties to that dispute usurps the seat of government and uses it as a means of persecuting its former partner. Furthermore, a political settlement can never be attained when the usurper regime acts to consolidate its illegal status rather than seeking a compromise which would entail sharing power with the very side it tried to subjugate by force of arms in December 1963.

As regards the Greek Cypriot representative's reference to the "demilitarization proposal" of the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Glafcos Clerides, I wish to point out that it constitutes a contradiction in terms for the Greek Cypriot administration to pursue an intensive campaign of militarization in line with its policy of escalation and tension on the one hand, and pay lip service to demilitarization on the other. Ever since the inception of the so-called "joint defence doctrine" with Greece in 1993, the Greek Cypriot administration has undertaken an unprecedented build-up of arms and armed forces, including the purchase of the sophisticated S-300 missile system in contravention of successive Security Council resolutions on Cyprus. With the construction and inauguration of the military airbase in Paphos and the near completion of a naval base in Zyghi for use by the Greek armed forces, South Cyprus has effectively been converted into a military outpost of Greece.

The Greek Cypriot campaign of propaganda and defamation clearly indicates that the Greek Cypriot side is not interested in the resolution of the dispute but rather prefers the present state of affairs under which it is treated as the "Government of Cyprus" and sees the prospect of becoming a full member of the European Union in the name of "Cyprus". Those parties interested in a peaceful settlement of the Cyprus dispute must accord equal treatment to the two sides in Cyprus, if ever the Greek Cypriots are to have an incentive to seek a negotiated settlement.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of
Northern Cyprus